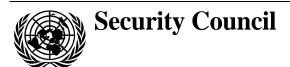
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Statement by the President of the Security Council

At the 5621st meeting of the Security Council, held on 16 January 2007, in connection with the Council's consideration of the item entitled "The situation in Chad and the Sudan", the President of the Security Council made the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council reiterates its concern about the continuing instability along the borders between the Sudan, Chad and the Central African Republic and about the threat which this poses to the safety of the civilian population and the conduct of humanitarian operations.

"The Security Council takes note of the Secretary-General's report of 22 December 2006 (S/2006/1019), which contains preliminary recommendations on the deployment of a multidimensional United Nations presence in eastern Chad and north-eastern Central African Republic. It notes the position taken by the Central African and Chadian authorities in favour in principle of such a presence and looks forward to their continued engagement in preparing for it.

"The Security Council notes the Secretary-General's intention to authorize the immediate return of the technical assessment mission to the region in order to complete its observations that were curtailed on security grounds and requests him to submit, by the middle of February 2007, updated and finalized recommendations on the size, structure and mandate of a UN multidimensional presence.

"To accelerate preparations for an early decision on the possible deployment of a multidimensional UN presence, the Security Council requests that the Secretary-General deploy as soon as possible an advance mission to Chad and the Central African Republic, in consultation with their Governments, as envisaged in paragraph 88 of his report."

